

35. A sanitary napkin for mounting onto the bodyside of a crotch portion of an undergarment, and, during use, absorbing bodily excretions, comprising:

an elongated absorbent pad having a longitudinal axis, a longitudinally extending central portion and opposite longitudinal side edges, said side edges being deflectable with respect to said central portion, and including an absorbent contained between a bodyside, liquid-permeable cover and a garment side, liquid-impermeable baffle; and

control means for selectively controlling deflection of said side edges during use, said control means being anchorable under said crotch portion of said undergarment, said anchoring establishing a generally downward pull on said side edges and preventing said side edges from folding in toward said absorbent, wherein said control means comprises first and second opposite garment attachment panels, extending generally downward and inward from an underside of said absorbent pad adjacent to said side edges; and

wherein said garment attachment panels include a fixed portion attached to the underside of said absorbent pad toward said side edge and a free portion diverging from the underside of said absorbent pad for, during use, extending under said crotch portion of said undergarment, wherein a garment attachment point is defined where said fixed and said free portions meet each other; and

including means for anchoring said free portions of said garment attachment panels so as to establish a predetermined deflection of said side edges and to facilitate accurate mounting of said sanitary napkin on said undergarment, and

wherein said means for anchoring said free portions of said garment attachment panels comprises mating fastener elements, one on each of said garment attachment panels, said fastener elements being configured as to provide substantially only a single predetermined lateral relationship of one garment attachment panel to the other.

36. The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein the predetermined deflection of said side edges and the predetermined particular confinement of said side edges of said crotch portion of said undergarment biases said absorbent pad into an upwardly convex form, closely fitting the body.

37. The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein said absorbent is longitudinally extending and has opposite longitudinal side edges and the deflectable side edges of the absorbent pad normally extend generally laterally with respect to said absorbent and, during use, the anchoring of said garment attachment panel configures said sanitary napkin so that each side edge of said crotch portion of said undergarment is supported approximately no higher than a side edge of said absorbent.

38. The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein the lateral disposition of said fixed portion of said garment attachment panel and the anchoring of said garment attachment panel configure said sanitary napkin so that each side edge of said crotch portion of said undergarment is supported approximately beneath a side edge of said absorbent and said absorbent is free to conform to the body of the user.

39. The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein said fixed portions of said garment attachment panels are disposed so that each side of said crotch portion of said undergarment is restrained adjacent to a side edge of said absorbent pad and prevented from overlaying said absorbent pad.

40. The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein said side edges of said absorbent pad have a lateral periphery and said absorbent has a longitudinally extending lateral side contiguous with said side edge and said garment attachment panels have an inner attachment lateral limit from which said free portion of said garment attachment panel diverges and said inner lateral limit is disposed between said lateral side of said absorbent and said lateral periphery of said side edge of said absorbent pad.

41. The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein said cover and said baffle extend laterally beyond said absorbent to define said side edges and wherein said garment attachment panels are secured to said baffle outwardly of said absorbent.

42. The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein said side edges, said cover and said baffle are bonded together to form an edge seal.

43. The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein at least one of said cover and said baffle extend laterally beyond said absorbent to define said side edges.

44. The sanitary napkin of claim 42, wherein said garment attachment panels are attached to the side of said edge seal on which the baffle is located.